

## **Birds of the Mojave Desert: Natural History & Conservation**

**DATES AND TIMES OF MEETING:** October 5, 6, 7, 2018 beginning Friday at 8:00 P.M. and ending Sunday at 3:00 P.M.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Kurt Leuschner

Oases in the Mojave Desert are used by a wide variety of bird species every fall as stopping points during their southward migration. You will be amazed by the numbers and kinds of species we will encounter at this time of year. Beginning on Friday evening we will examine the important role of these stopover areas in the conservation of neotropical migrant birds and learn the techniques used to identify the common families of birds found in the vicinity of the Desert Studies Center. As we observe both migrant and resident birds in their natural habitats, we will learn about their ecology, natural history and special adaptations to the harsh desert environment.

## **Mammal Tracking in the East Mojave**

**DATES AND TIMES OF MEETING:** October 26, 27, 28, 2018 beginning at 8:00 P.M. on Friday and ending at 3:00 P.M. on Sunday

**INSTRUCTOR:** Jim Lowery

Study mammal track identification and interpretation in a location with outstanding substrate and a wide variety of species including kit fox, gray fox, bobcat, badger and spotted skunk. Using the Desert Studies Center as his base, nationally known tracking expert Jim Lowery, author of *The Tracker's Field Guide*, will lead this weekend workshop that develops skills in going beyond identification and rather seeing tracks as windows to the animals' biology, mood, behavior and body language. Jim has trained many field biologists and served as a consultant for mammal studies; through his school Earth Skills he has taught outdoor skills and tracking since 1987. This clinic is a good review and practice for experienced trackers, but is appropriate for novices as well.